

6th June 2013

Standing Committee on Education and Employment

RE: Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013

As a Director of a long day care service, I am expressing the unfairness of the Early Years Quality Fund Grant. I believe the government is not being respectful to the industry as a whole, workers or families. If you want to acknowledge Early Childhood educators for the commitment to children and their education in the early years it would be across the board nationally. It seems absolutely absurd to me that only a percentage of early childhood educators will receive this increase and the government is only committing for 2 years. I work in a centre with wonderful management and a committed team of educators, if other centres in our area receive this pay rise, I am more than likely going to have quality staff leave to receive an increase in their wages to support their families. The government needs to consider an outcome that is fair and long term and benefits employers and employees.

The Early Years are so important in a child's development and I request that this Bill be rejected until the federal government agrees to distribute the Early Years Quality Fund Grant monies equally amongst **all educators** who care for, educate and support our nation's children - not just a select minority.

The objective of the Federal Government's Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013 does not reveal the true facts of this \$300 million Grant Fund to be paid over a two year period nor does it consider the outcome it will have on the Education and Care sector.

As stated by the Prime Minister, this fund will provide grant funding to "up to **40%** of the long day care sector" and paid on a "**first in first served**" basis. This is causing division in a sector that is already under stress and striving to meet the legislative requirements of the National Quality Framework.

I believe it is unfair and discriminatory for a government to create such an inequity through taxpayer funds by increasing pay for a minority of educators in the sector by up to \$6 **per hour** leaving over 60% of dedicated educators in the long day care sector receiving no increase at all.

Kind Regards



Steph Cobb
Director
Bella Grace Early Learning Centre

